

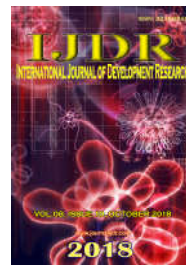


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INFORMATION SOURCES AND SERVICES OF ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) LIBRARY IRINJALAKKUDA: AN EVALUATION

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents the use of information resources by students in St. Joseph's College, Irinjalakuda. Relevant literature of the information resources and its use in various categories of users has been reviewed. The study examined the types of information resources used by the research scholars, the purpose of the use of information resources and problems faced by the students while accessing the same. Updates and latest book collection on various subjects are to be increased as the major factors which attract most of the users towards resource.

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INTRODUCTION

Libraries are information centers that help in satisfying the information needs of the users. The libraries have played an important part in developing different aspects of the society. This includes the advancement of both the culture and education. A library provides repackaged information through user friendly devices. An academic library is a library usually attached to the schools, colleges, universities, etc. The academic library is an integral part of the institution which aims to meet the information needs of the students, the staff, the researchers, and other users associated with the institution. The main function of an academic library is to help its parent organization in carrying out its objectives. It also helps to fulfill the curriculum requirements and to promote the studies and the researches among the users. Among academic library college libraries hold a key role. The main objective of the college libraries is to facilitate the information needs of the college faculties and students by offering all relevant materials regarding curriculum. For this purpose there should be an adequate collection of resources and services which provide information.

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A well stocked college library is a store house of knowledge or a record of human experience to which users may approach for data or information. Relevant books and other information materials are provided with the understanding that a college library is for all of the learners. One of the basic functions of the college of arts and science is to provide training to the students in order to be good scholars. So libraries can be considered as one of the most important educational agencies.

This study was conducted to know the information sources and services of St. Joseph's College (Autonomous) Irinjalakuda.

Relevance of the study: A college library is expected to support the objectives of a college. A library is the strength of an educational institution. A college library focuses on maintaining the quality of academic programs. It provides intellectual inputs to academic for teaching, training, and research work. The schools, colleges, and universities are the institutions which give formal education to the students. Institutions such as schools, colleges or universities should have a library attached to them. In colleges, the focal point of learning should be gradually shifted from the class room to the library. A student will be able to gather in depth knowledge of the subject by doing extensive readings of several books and other materials provided by the library.

Information sources and services available in the library play a great role in helping the students in terms of finding accurate information they are looking for. Therefore a study regarding the usefulness of information sources and services of an institution may reveal the present situation. Also such study provides a basis for improving the collection and services as per the information needs of users.

Objectives of the study

- To find out the use of information sources and services provided by St. Joseph's College Library.
- To know the level of satisfaction towards utilization of library resources.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology adopted for this study is survey method and includes the following techniques.

Questionnaire
Observation

Scope and limitations: The library must become an integral part of the educational institution. The effectiveness of the student learning process is increased by various means especially in the use of libraries. For this purpose, the available sources and services in the library must be self-sufficient in order to meet the needs of the users. The present study is based on the data collected from the students of St. Joseph's College, Irinjalakkuda. Faculty members of the college are not included in the study. The time limit is considered as a major problem in this study. The investigator has tried to collect the maximum required data within the limited time available.

Review of literature: The aim of this chapter is to present a review of related literature published in the field of study. Several studies have been undertaken by national and international agencies and by individuals with a view to assess the trend and improve the service. A review of these studies would give an idea about the various facts of the topic and would help in carrying out the study in a meaningful way. Therefore the investigator made an attempt to review previous studies. Both primary and secondary sources are consulted for this purpose. The internet was also used for collecting relevant information.

Rathnakar, U. P. described the extent of use of library by faculty, to identify utilization of facilities other than books in the library by them and to suggest ways to improve the resources in the library. The study was carried out in a medical college in South India. All the teachers in the departments of anatomy, physiology, bio-chemistry, pathology, pharmacology, microbiology, forensic medicine and community medicine were included in the study. The data was collected by using a pre-tested structured questionnaire. Seventy six teachers belonging to nonclinical departments responded. Junior teachers attended library more often when compared to senior teachers. Frequency of library visits decreased with the increase in the seniority of the teachers. One of the reasons could be that most of the teachers without higher qualifications [junior teachers] were preparing for higher studies hence likely to have spent more time in central library in preparation for various entrance examinations. Availability of internet facilities throughout the campus and the fact that all senior faculty are provided with personal

laptops, probably decreases the need to attend central library frequently. Barik, Nilaranjan conducted a study to evaluate the library services and resources of Einstein Academy of Technology and Management (EATM), Bhubaneswar. In this study the investigator distributed a simple questionnaire among 72 faculty members from all the departments of the college to obtain their satisfaction, views and suggestions about the services, resources and staffs attitudes. Only 60 faculty members returned the questionnaire at a ratio of male and female as 42 and 18 respectively. The detail procedure of study, methodology and research findings is described in the study. It is found that the overall satisfaction level of faculty members towards library services is about 81.66%. The quality of services, adequacy of resources, and the nature of IT enabled services are comparatively good in the library. But adequacy of print resources is not satisfactory. About 15% faculty members disagree about the adequacy of print resources.

Information sources: Respondents were asked to indicate the use of information sources according to the order of priority.

First Preference: 35.52% of students ranked General periodicals as their preferred information sources, followed by Newspaper (35.30%), Subject books (34.84%), students Reference books (27.82%), Bound volume (26.24%), General books (22.40%), Subject periodicals (19.90%), Dissertation/thesis (8.60%), CD-ROM (8.37%), and E-books/ E-journals (5.88%).

Second Preference: 37.56% of students ranked subject periodicals as their preferred information sources, followed by bound volume (32.58%), reference books (30.31%), general books (27.82%), subject books (26.92%), E-books/E-journals (22.62%), Dissertation/ Thesis (12.21%), general periodicals (11.53%), and CD-ROM (8.82%).

Third preference: 34.84% of students ranked both general books and general periodicals as their preferred information sources, followed by reference books (26.92%), Subject periodicals (24.20%), Subject books (23.30%), Bound volume (22.62%), Dissertation/Thesis (17.87%), E-books/ E-journals (16.97%), CD-ROM (8.60%), and Newspapers (4.30%).

Fourth preference: 17.64% students ranked CD-ROM as their preferred information sources. Followed by Dissertation/ Thesis (14.25%), E-journals/ E-books (10.63%), and Newspapers (4.30%).

Fifth preference: 15.15% students ranked CD-ROM as their preferred information sources, followed by E-books/ E-journals (11.76%), Dissertation / thesis (11.09%), and newspapers (5.20%).

Sixth preference: (13.80%) students ranked CD-ROM, followed by E-books/E-journals (8.14%), and equally 7.91% Newspaper and Dissertation/thesis.

Seventh preference: (14.70%), CD ROM (9.95%), Dissertation/ thesis (9.72%), E-books/ E-journals (6.10%).

First preference : Majority of 69.90% of users prefer lending services as their preferred information services followed by photocopying service (67.87%), Internet service (60.63%), Reference service (58.59%), Orientation programme (28.28%), CAS/ SDI (2.48%), and Newspaper clippings (2.03%).

Table 1. Information Sources

Sl.No	Information sources	Order of Priority						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Books	99 (22.40%)	123 (27.82%)	154 (34.84%)	0	0	0	0
	General							
	Subject	154 (34.84%)	119 (26.92%)	103 (23.30%)	0	0	0	0
	Reference	123 (27.82%)	134 (30.31%)	119 (26.92%)	0	0	0	0
2	PERIODICALS							
	General	157 (35.52%)	51 (11.53%)	154 (34.84%)	0	0	0	0
	Subject	88 (19.90%)	166 (37.56%)	107 (24.20%)	0	0	0	0
	Bound volume	116 (26.24%)	144 (32.58%)	100 (22.62%)	0	0	0	0
3	News papers	156 (35.29%)	47 (10.63%)	19 (4.30%)	19 (4.30%)	23 (5.20%)	35 (7.91%)	65 (14.70%)
	E-Books/E-Journals	26 (5.88%)	100 (22.62%)	75 (16.97%)	47 (10.63%)	52 (11.76%)	36 (8.14%)	27 (6.10%)
4	CD-ROM	37 (8.37%)	39 (8.82%)	38 (8.60%)	78 (17.64%)	67(15.15%)	61 (13.80%)	44 (9.95%)
6	Dissertation/thesis	38 (8.60%)	54 (12.21%)	79 (17.87%)	63 (14.25%)	49(11.09%)	35 (7.91%)	43 (9.72%)

Table 2. Information service

Sl. No	Services	Order of Preference							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Lending	309 (69.90%)	87 (19.68%)	10 (2.26%)	17 (3.84%)	8 (1.80%)	6 (1.35%)	3 (0.67%)	2 (0.45%)
2	Reference	259 (58.59%)	110 (24.88%)	52 (11.76%)	9 (2.03%)	5 (1.13%)	3 (0.67%)	3 (0.67%)	1 (0.22%)
3	CAS/SDI	11 (2.48%)	35 (7.91%)	109 (24.66%)	112 (25.33%)	18 (4.07%)	128 (28.95%)	17 (3.84%)	12 (2.71%)
4	Newspaper clippings	9 (2.03%)	38 (8.59%)	79 (17.87%)	129 (29.18%)	58 (13.12%)	108 (24.43%)	7 (1.58%)	14 (3.16%)
5	Photocopying service	300 (67.87%)	12 (2.71%)	56 (12.66%)	41 (9.27%)	22 (4.97%)	8 (1.80%)	2 (0.45%)	1 (0.22%)
6	Orientation programme	125 (28.28%)	100 (22.62%)	168 (38%)	17 (3.84%)	12 (2.71%)	15 (3.39%)	3 (0.67%)	2 (0.45%)
7	Internet services	268 (60.63%)	138 (31.22%)	9 (2.03%)	12 (2.71%)	8 (1.80%)	3 (0.67%)	2 (0.45%)	2 (0.45%)
8	Inter library loan services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3. Satisfaction of Information Sources

Sl. No	Information resources	Number of response and percentage			
		Fully satisfied	Partially satisfied	Not satisfied	Not available
1	Books				
	General	215 (62.21%)	97 (21.94%)	46 (10.40%)	23 (5.20%)
	Subjects reference	268 (60.63%)	111 (25.11%)	34 (7.69%)	28 (6.33%)
2	Periodicals				
	General	227 (51.36%)	135 (30.54%)	34 (7.69%)	46 (10.40%)
	Subject	190 (42.99%)	209 (47.29%)	29 (6.56%)	10 (2.26%)
3	Bound volume	155 (35.07%)	222 (50.22%)	34 (7.69%)	29 (6.56%)
	News paper	128 (28.96%)	221 (47.73%)	56 (12.67%)	46 (10.40%)
	E-books/ e-journal	365 (82.57%)	70 (15.83%)	0	0
4	CD-ROM	129 (29.19%)	195 (44.11%)	21 (4.75%)	21 (4.75%)
5	Dissertation/ thesis	245 (55.42%)	144 (32.58%)	32 (7.23%)	20 (4.55%)
6		97 (21.94%)	250 (56.56%)	68 (15.38%)	25 (5.66%)

Table 4. Satisfaction of Information Services

Sl. No	Information services	Fully satisfied	Partially satisfied	Not satisfied	Not available
1	Lending service	289 (64.02%)	116 (26.24%)	32 (7.23%)	0
2	Reference service	106 (23.98%)	293 (66.28%)	20 (4.52%)	30 (6.79%)
3	CAS/SDI Service	242 (54.75%)	145 (32.80%)	48 (10.86%)	0
4	Newspaper clippings	245 (55.42%)	132 (29.86%)	28 (6.33%)	36 (8.14%)
5	Reprography services	335 (75.79%)	93 (21.04%)	12 (2.71%)	0
6	Internet services	233 (52.71%)	155 (35.07%)	52 (11.76%)	0
7	Orientation programme	127 (28.73%)	241 (54.52%)	72 (16.29%)	0
8	Abstracting and Indexing services	93 (21.04%)	335 (75.79%)	12 (2.71%)	0
9	CD-ROM Search	114 (25.79%)	306 (69.23%)	11 (2.49%)	5 (1.13%)

Second preference: 31.22% of users prefer reference services as their preferred information services followed by Internet service (31.22%), Reference service (24.88%), Orientation programme (22.62%), lending services (19.68%), Newspaper clippings (8.59%), CAS/ SDI (7.91%),and photocopying service (2.71%).

Third preference: 38% of users prefer Newspaper clippings as their preferred information services followed by CAS/ SDI (24.66%), Newspaper clippings (17.87%), photocopying service (12.66%), Reference service (11.76%), lending services (2.26%), and Internet service (2.03%).

Fourth preference: 29.18% of users prefer Newspaper clippings as their preferred information services followed by CAS/ SDI (25.33%), photocopying service (9.27%), lending

services and Orientation programme (3.84%), Internet service (2.71%), and Reference service (2.03%).

Fifth preference: 13.12% of users prefer Newspaper clippings as their preferred information services followed by photocopying service (4.97%), CAS/ SDI (4.07%), Orientation programme (2.71%), Lending services and Internet service (1.80%).Reference services (1.13%).

Sixth preference: 28.95%of users prefer CAS/SDI as their preferred information services followed by Newspaper clippings (24.43%), Orientation programme (3.39%), photocopying service (1.80%), lending services (1.35%), Internet service and Reference service (0.67%).

Satisfaction of Information Sources: Respondent were asked to specify their satisfaction regarding information resources.

Fully satisfied: Majority 82.57% of students are fully satisfied with newspaper followed by various important sources such as General books (62.21%), Subject books (60.63%), CD-ROM (55.42%), Reference book (51.36%), general periodicals (42.99%), subject periodicals (35.07%), E-Books/ e-journal (29.19%), Bound volume (28.96%), and Dissertation / thesis (21.94%).

Partially satisfied: More than half 56.56% partially satisfied with Dissertation/ thesis followed by various important sources such as subject periodicals (50.22%), Bound volume (47.73%), General periodicals (47.29%), E-journals/ e-books (44.11%), CD-ROM (32.58%), Reference books (30.54%), Subject books (25.11%), general books (21.94%), and Newspaper (15.83%).

Not satisfied: 15.38% of the students not satisfied with Dissertation/ thesis followed by the various information sources such as bound volume (12.67%), Reference books (7.69%), Subject books (7.69%), and subject periodicals (7.69%), CD-ROM (7.23%), General periodicals (6.56%).

Not available: 10.40% of the students stated that both reference books and bound volume are not available in the library followed by Subject periodicals (6.56%), Subject books (6.33%), Dissertation/ thesis (5.66%), General books (5.20%), E-books/e-journals (4.75%), CD-ROM (4.55%), and General periodicals (2.26%).

Satisfaction of Information Services: Respondent were asked to indicate the satisfaction of information services provided by the library.

Fully satisfied: Majority of the students 75.79% are fully satisfied with Reprography service followed by the various information services such as Lending services (64.02%), Newspaper clipping service (55.42%), CAS/SDI services (54.75%), Internet services (52.71%), Orientation programme (28.73%), CD-ROM search (25.79%), and Reference service (23.98%).

Partially satisfied: Majority of students 69.23% are partially satisfied with CD-ROM service followed by the various information services such as reference service (66.28%), Orientation programme (54.52%), Internet service (35.07%), CAS/SDI Service (32.80%), Newspaper clipping service (29.86%), Lending service (26.24%), and Reprography service (21.04%).

Not satisfied: 16.29% of students are not satisfied with Orientation programme services followed by Internet service (11.76%), CAS/SDI Service (10.86%), Lending service (7.23%), Newspaper clipping service (6.33%), Reference service (4.52%), Reprography service (2.71%), and CD-ROM Search (2.49%).

Not available: 8.14% of students are not available with Newspaper clipping service followed by reference service (6.79%), and CD-ROM Search (1.13%).

Suggestions

- The students unawareness on the importance of the subject journals in their respective field is revealed by the study. So it is suggested to encourage the use of subject journals to keep them up-to-date in their subject.
- The library is being used for Reprographic facility by majority of the students. It is suggested to encourage them to make more use of other valuable information services.
- Only a few students are using OPAC facility. Majority of the students are spending a lot of time in search of their required materials. This can be eliminated if they are encouraged to use OPAC.

Conclusion

Information resources have played a significant role in all fields of human life especially in education and information handling. The main objective of academic library is to satisfy the academic needs of its users. The study investigated the use of St. Joseph's College Library to meet the information requirements of the users. Major problems encountered by the users towards the reference and latest books collection of various subjects are to be increased.

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